

R E M A R K S

After careful consideration of the outstanding Office Action, this application has been amended accordingly, and upon favorable reconsideration, the formal allowance thereof would be most appreciated.

At page 4, paragraph 8 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 5 through 7 “would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.” Claim 5 has been amended to include the subject matter of independent claim 1 and intervening claim 4 absent alternative language. Thus, claim 5 should be allowed, as should claims 6 and 7 depending therefrom. Accordingly, the formal allowance of each of claims 5 through 7 is respectfully requested.

The remaining issue is the rejection of claims 1 through 4 and 8 through 10 “under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant’s admitted prior art in view of Bosch, CAN Specification v.2.0, 1991.” Claim 1 has been cancelled and substituted therefor is new independent claim 11 which defines Applicant’s unobvious invention over the applied prior art.

Although the Bosch publication discloses broadcast communication, CAN Specification v.2.0 specifically states in the “Introduction” at page 4 that the Controller Area Network (CAN) is “a serial communications protocol.” Applicant’s system, on the other hand, involves control information acquisition which is sequentially acquired from a memory and broadcasts the same to the communication broadcast modules on a **parallel** bus. Thus, the information is transmitted sequentially but in a **parallel** format. The entirety of the CAN disclosure is directed to communication systems that are applicable **only** to **serial** communications, and there is

neither a suggestion nor a motivation which would render obvious to one skilled in the art the sequential transmission of information in **parallel** form via a **parallel** bus, as is now recited in new claim 11.

Reference is made to independent claim 11 which excludes therefrom the alternative language earlier noted herein, otherwise corresponds to original claim 1, and adds thereto the following two limitations:

a memory which receives the control information sent from the control device and stores the received control information **sequentially and in parallel form**;

control information acquisition means for sequentially acquiring from the memory the temporarily stored control information and broadcasting the control information to the plurality of communication protocol modules **on a parallel bus**.

The undersigned has emphasized the distinguishing, novel and unobvious characteristics of new claim 11 which unobviously distinguish the communication system thereof over the Bosch teaching or anything which could be gleaned therefrom by a person skilled in the art. Accordingly, independent claim 11 is urged to be clearly directed to unobvious subject matter when tested under the Graham factors (Graham v. John Deere Co. of Kansas City, 383 U.S. 1, 17-18, 148 USPQ 459, 467 (1966)) based upon "Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Bosch." In view of the foregoing, the latter prior art is considered incapable of rendering obvious claim 11 and each of the claims depending therefrom. Accordingly, the allowance of the latter claims and the entire application at an early date is herewith respectfully requested.

Several brief comments are also in order with respect to page 4, paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of the outstanding Office Action.

With respect to paragraph 5, claim 2 has been amended to include reference to “a parallel bus.” As was noted earlier herein, the Bosch publication targets only serial communications and thus any reference to a bus therein is a serial bus. There is no suggestion of an operable communication system employing a parallel bus.

With respect to paragraph 6 and claim 3, once again the Bosch disclosure deals only with serial communications and hence cannot be applied to render obvious a parallel bus that connects the control information acquisition means and the communication protocol modules.

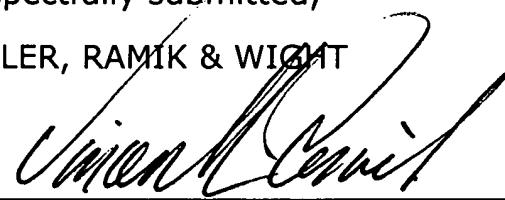
The Bosch publication, contrary to the Examiner’s statement in the seventh paragraph on page 4, does not mention the use of a memory in the serial communication path between the control/messaging devices. Applicant’s system does however employ a memory in the communications path between the control device and the protocol modules, as shown in Figure 1. Therefore, the issue with respect to the three claims set forth in paragraph 7 is not merely temporarily storing control information, but also the specific location of the memory in the communication path between the control device and the protocol modules.

As was noted earlier herein, at page 4, paragraph 8, the Examiner indicated that claims 5 through 7 would be allowed if appropriately rewritten, which has been done. However, each of claims 5 and 7 have been reproduced and submitted herewith as dependent claims 12, 13 and 14, respectively, depending directly and indirectly from claim 11. Clearly, since claim 11 is allowable for the reasons earlier advanced, the formal allowance of claims 12 through 14 is also respectfully requested.

In view of the forgoing, the formal allowance of this application at an early date would be most appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
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Attachment: Petition re Extension